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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/808,357

03/25/2004

John E. Uschold

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EXAMINER

DESANTO, MATTHEW F

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3763

MAIL DATE

DELIVERY MODE

07/24/2008

PAPER

**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b> 10/808,357	<b>Applicant(s)</b> USCHOLD, JOHN E.	
	<b>Examiner</b> MATTHEW F. DESANTO	<b>Art Unit</b> 3763	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

### Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 16 April 2008.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**.                      2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-3,5,13,15-18,20-23,32-36 and 39-45 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-3,5,13,15-18,20-23,32-36 and 39-45 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

### Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All    b) ☐ Some \*    c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

### Attachment(s)

- |                                                                                        |                                                                   |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)            | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)           |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)   | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____                                      |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>4/16/08</u> .                                                 | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____                          |

**DETAILED ACTION**

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112***

1. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

2. Claims 32, 34, and 35 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

3. Claims 32, 34 and 35 are indefinite because "the needle has a U-shape when viewed from the distal end" which causes the claim to be ambiguous because there are several ways to view the needle from the distal end. The needle can be view from the side portion at the distal end or from the distal end looking through the needle.

Therefore the claim is unclear as to how to view the needle.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 34, are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Ayres (USPN 3, 906, 932).

Ayres discloses a needle (40) comprising a shaft (10a) having a distal end defining a distal opening and having a longitudinal axis extending through the distal opening, the distal opening having a projected area that is smaller than a cross-sectional area of a section of the

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shaft proximal to the distal end of the shaft, wherein the distal most end is a curvilinear distal tip, wherein the distal end comprises opposing first (16) and second surfaces (18a) and the first surface is indented or tapered towards the second surface; wherein the distal end comprises opposing first and second extensions, which are angled towards each other and the second extension is longer than the first in a direction parallel to the longitudinal axis of the shaft and these extensions and mutually define at least one opening offset from the longitudinal axis of the shaft (see figure 2 and entire reference).

Claims 1, 2, 5, 13, 15 - 18, 20, 22, 23, 36, 41, 45, 46 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Larson (USPN 4,020,837).

Larson a needle comprising a shaft (16) having a distal end defining a distal opening (22) and having a longitudinal axis extending through the distal opening, the distal opening having a projected area (22+20) that is smaller than a cross-sectional area of a section (16) of the shaft proximal to the distal end of the shaft, wherein the distal most end is a curvilinear blunt (30) distal tip (see figure 4, 5 and entire reference) and wherein the distal end has a concavity (18) on the first surface.

Claim 36 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Ferguson (USPN 2,560,162).

Ferguson a needle comprising a shaft (5) having a distal end defining a distal opening (13) and having a longitudinal axis extending through the distal opening, the distal opening having a projected area (13) that is smaller than a cross-sectional area of a section (5) of the shaft proximal to the distal end of the shaft, wherein the distal most end is a curvilinear distal tip (see

figure 1-5 and entire reference) and wherein the distal end has a concavity (15) on the first surface.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

The factual inquiries set forth in *Graham v. John Deere Co.*, 383 U.S. 1, 148 USPQ 459 (1966), that are applied for establishing a background for determining obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are summarized as follows:

1. Determining the scope and contents of the prior art.
2. Ascertaining the differences between the prior art and the claims at issue.
3. Resolving the level of ordinary skill in the pertinent art.
4. Considering objective evidence present in the application indicating obviousness or nonobviousness.

Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ayres (USPN 3, 906, 932) in Jansen et al. (USPN 6,626,864).

Ayres discloses the claimed invention except for the distal tip being blunt.

Jansen et al. discloses the level of skill in the medical art and the variation of the term needle (Column 1, lines 15-32).

At the time of the invention it would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art to combine the device of Ayres with the teachings of Jansen et al. because Jansen et al. shows the level of skill in the medical/needle art, and the various types of needles that are used in medical devices. Thus providing the evidence that it would be

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obvious to try to modify the sharp needle of Ayres to a blunt needle since this modification would only take routine skill in the art.

Claims 3, 5, 39, 42 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ayres with Jansen et al. and further in view of Alchas (USPN 4,537,593).

Ayres and Jansen et al. discloses the device as described above but fails to explicitly disclose a port or that the distal end of the needle is tapered.

Alchas ('593) describes that the distal end of the shaft 26 comprises at least one port (36) on it's side, the distal end terminates in a curvilinear distal tip (31) and the distal end of the shaft (26) is tapered, and the needle (20) being on the distal end of a syringe (117) see figures 1, 2 and 14.

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention by the applicant to modify the device of Ayres with Jansen et al. by incorporating the port and tapered shaft of the type taught by Alchas, in order to vent air and allow access to narrow target areas.

Claims 44 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Larson and further in view of Alchas (USPN 4,537,593).

Larson discloses the device as described above but fails to explicitly disclose a port or that the distal end of the needle is tapered.

Alchas ('593) describes that the distal end of the shaft 26 comprises at least one port (36) on it's side, the distal end terminates in a curvilinear distal tip (31) and the distal end of the shaft

(26) is tapered, and the needle (20) being on the distal end of a syringe (117) see figures 1, 2 and 14.

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention by the applicant to modify the device of Larson by incorporating the port and tapered shaft of the type taught by Alchas, in order to vent air and allow access to narrow target areas.

### ***Response to Arguments***

Applicant's arguments filed on 4/16/08 have been fully considered and are persuasive with regards Dye (USPN 3,788,320) and Magasi.

The examiner has withdrawn the previous 112 Rejection due to the amendment made to the claims.

### ***Conclusion***

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to MATTHEW F. DESANTO whose telephone number is (571)272-4957. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 9:30-6:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Nick LUCCHESI can be reached on (571) 272-4977. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Matthew DeSanto

/Matthew F DeSanto/  
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 3763